

PLAN IT!

Quarterly Newsletter of the Planning Division

4th Quarter, 2010

Traffic Information

The NDOT Traffic Information Section is charged with collecting all types of traffic data and performing special traffic studies. The section collects the following data on an annual basis; continuous traffic/Automated Traffic Recorder

(ATR) counts, short-term (7-day by hour) counts, vehicle classifications, and truck weights. The Traffic Information Section is also responsible for developing and reviewing forecasted traffic volumes used for all types of analysis and reports. Special traffic studies such as: signal warrants, speed studies, pedestrian, and bicycle counts are conducted on an as-needed basis. Traffic data is collected by two crews, one in Carson City and the other in Las Vegas.



*Back row (L to R) – Mike Gower, Mike Brown, Bryan McCurdy, Brian Kramer, Ken Tait, Matt Hamilton, Scott Bohemier, Joel Potter; (Not pictured – Tony Rivera)
Front Row (L to R)– Jerry Dyke, Shawn Burhus, Jan Peters, Tom Rutherford, Bev Vincent, Dave Leegard, Randy Travis, John Coder, Bill Rosenthal, Reese Rigsby, Brian Reinert, Ben Craig*

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Data Uses

NDOT uses the data for many applications including: roadway and pavement design, air quality reports, gas tax allocation, roadway funding, submitting data

annually to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), regional model validation, bridge reporting, Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS), Pavement Management Systems (PMS), as well as Safety and Performance Measures. The statistics derived from this data are provided to various divisions within NDOT, at the federal level and to various private entities.

The section also processes and reports traffic data for the City of North Las Vegas, Lyon County and the RTC of Southern Nevada. They also process and publish the NDOT Annual Traffic Report. NDOT is required by federal law, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 23 500 and state law NRS 408 to collect traffic data.

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Accessing Data

One goal of NDOT Traffic Information is to have the most accurate data available to the largest segment of people. This data can be requested by the following methods:

Annual Traffic Report hard copies - by request (\$20 cost) and are available at all NDOT District offices (Carson City, Elko, Las Vegas and Reno)

Annual Traffic Report electronic version (1999 to 2009)
http://www.nevadadot.com/reports_pubs/Traffic_Report/

Traffic Information Access (TRINA) – geographic web application currently used by 800 users monthly
<http://www.nevadadot.com/trina/>

Hourly traffic counts, AVC (limited), or Continuous count (limited) reports on the FTP site
<ftp://ftp.nevadadot.com/TrafficInformation/>

Classification, Weight and Special Studies
 Report by request

NDOT Traffic Information “By the Numbers”

4,200 +/- locations statewide
3,900 short-term traffic counts
110 continuous traffic counts
250 short-term vehicle classification sites
12 continuous vehicle classification sites
8 continuous weigh in motion sites



TRINA Website

Special Traffic Studies

The NDOT Traffic Information section conducts special traffic studies on an as-needed basis. The studies look at specific criteria and determine the need for traffic signals and the need to raise or lower speed limits. Annually the section completes 20 to 30 traffic signal warrant studies, 10 to 20 traffic speed studies, along with 10 to 15 special studies (delay, turn movements and special count studies.)

The traffic signal studies review the nine traffic signal warrants that are discussed in the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The study determines if a traffic signal will improve traffic flow and safety, restrict traffic flow or have no impact on traffic flow.

NDOT speed studies determine the 85th percentile speed of motorized transportation. This speed along with many other limiting factors such as roadway width, pedestrians and access points are considered when determining if the speed limit on the road needs to be changed. These changes could lead to improved traffic flow, safety, geometry or the need to improve and/or construct a new roadway.

For additional information please contact Randy Travis, Traffic Information Chief at 775-888-7445 or rtravis@dot.state.nv.us. If you need specific information about the Vehicle Size/Weight Classification program please contact Tony Rivera at 775-888-7442 or trivera@dot.state.nv.us or information about the Traffic Volume and Special Counts Program please contact David Leegard at 775-888-7157 or dleegard@dot.state.nv.us.

NDOT's Research Library

The NDOT Research Library is one part of the NDOT Research Section. The library houses a vast array of transportation information. In fact, the library contains over 15,000 volumes of resources on a wide variety of topics ranging from bridge construction to safe pedestrian crossings and everything in between. For NDOT employees these resources can be mailed anywhere in Nevada.

The Research Library recently upgraded its online catalog which is available to anyone. The new website allows individuals to reserve publications through the "my account" menu, view resources available from other DOT research libraries, contains links to various transportation search engines and contains an interface to manage your account. All of this can be accessed at <http://207.67.203.78/N94025Staff/OPAC/index.asp>

The NDOT Research Library recently subscribed to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) on-line archive. Employees now have the ability to download copies of the ASCE Journals (33 journals from 1983 to 2010) and ASCE Proceedings (250 titles plus all new titles published in 2010). So far, through the first two months of this subscription some 200 articles have been downloaded. Among the most popular journals accessed by NDOT staff is the Journal of Bridge Engineering and Journal of Survey Engineering.



NDOT employees enjoying the Research Section's annual PI Day



Sena Loyd

For additional information about the NDOT Research Library please contact NDOT Librarian, Sena Loyd at sloyd@dot.state.nv.us or 775-888-7895.

Plan It! Readership Survey

Please take a few moments to answer the short on-line survey available at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/U2GK4V33P6P8>. It will only take a couple of minutes and will help us to create the best newsletter possible. Thanks!!

Meet the Planner**Steve Jackson, Federal Programs
Manager, Roadway Systems****Steve Jackson**

Steve has spent the last 38 years in Nevada. He was raised in Gardnerville and attended Western Nevada College (WNC) studying computer sciences. He has been married for almost 27 years and has enjoyed being a dad to his son, Kevin, and cites them as very important parts of his life. Steve served in the U.S. Air Force for two years at the Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

Steve enjoys spending time reading and considers “Tuesdays with Morrie” by Mitch Albom and “Every Second Counts” by Lance Armstrong among his favorites. One of Steve’s favorite sayings is, “Integrity –When you do the right thing even when no one else is watching,” Anonymous.

Steve is an avid mountain biker and rides the Tahoe Rim Trail every chance he gets. Currently, slightly more than 50% of the trail’s 165 miles is accessible by bicycle. He has a deep appreciation of Lake Tahoe’s beauty. Additionally, Steve has a passion...that is portrait photography. “It’s very gratifying to see people smile at their photos. It’s a rush,” Steve states.

The NDOT Planning Division would like to wish everyone a

Happy and Safe Holiday Season

Key Dates

Governor-Elect Brian Sandoval takes office, January 3, 2011

Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting, January 20, 2011

76th Regular Session of the Nevada Legislature convenes, February 7, 2011

Statewide Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (STTAC) Meeting, February 7, 2011

Nevada State Rail Plan Public Meeting, Las Vegas (contact Matthew Furedy at mfuredy@dot.state.nv.us or 775-888-7353 for additional information), February 28, 2011

NDOT Product Evaluation Committee Meeting, March 1, 2011

Nevada State Rail Plan Public Meeting, Reno, March 1, 2011

Nevada State Rail Plan Public Meeting, Elko, March 3, 2011

Please forward your key dates to Tim Mueller at tmueller@dot.state.nv.us for the April to June 2011 time period by March 1, 2011.



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